

Bear IN Mind

As bear populations in neighboring states increase, it is likely that black bears may find their way into Indiana. Black bears are rarely aggressive toward humans but can create problems. Most problems arise as bears search for food. If bears associate the food they find with humans, they can become habituated.



Black Bear Facts

- Stocky animal with short legs.
- Typically, males weigh 150-400 lbs and females weigh 100-250 lbs.
- In the eastern United States, typically have a thick black coat with a tan muzzle.
- Omnivorous, feeding on grass, seeds, and berries to insects, rodents, and deer.
- Intelligent with a keen sense of smell and hearing.
- Young bears, particularly males, may travel long distance, up to 20 miles per day, into new areas, before retreating to establish a territory closer to the primary range.
- The last confirmed report of a black bear in Indiana was in 1871.

Black Bear Dos& Don'ts

DO remove bird feeders and bird food from late March through November.

DO clean and store grills away after use.

DO eliminate food attractants by placing garbage cans inside a garage or shed.

DON'T intentionally feed bears. Bears that become accustomed to finding food near your home may become "problem" bears.

DON'T leave pet food outside overnight.

DON'T add meat or sweets to a compost pile.

DON'T climb a tree, but wait in a vehicle or building for the bear to leave the area.

If you see a black bear:

- Enjoy it from a distance.
- Advertise your presence by shouting and waving your arms and backing slowly away.
- Never attempt to feed or attract bears.
- **Report bear sightings to the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife at 812-334-1137 or : dfwinput@dnr.in.gov**



For additional information on black bears, visit:
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/3357.htm>

